9/14/66

Dear Mr. Verb,

Again you have been very helpful. I do appreciate it. Enclosed is a copy of my letter to Stanley. By now you should have the document, which I mailed you several days ago.

I heard of Lane's appearance in S.F. I have taped a TV show with him. I have read his book. I deplore the things he does personally and in his book. With a subject matter so rich he exaggerates and lies, for the unecessary effect of painting the orchid. This is dnagerous. At some point, if his appearances are being taped as carefully as he should expect and as mine are by some of my competeition (from whom I hear my lines, not in their work, coming back at me from their raido and TV appearances) this can be disasterous. I am out of sympathy with his explicit campaign to get Earl Warren. It is unjust, immoral and will not be a "solution". When you see "WHITEWASH II: WHO DID IT. you will better understand that for all their many mistakes, for some of which there can be no reasonable excuse, the Commission was hemmed in. A lawyer should have more readily detected what I did, and prove, shockingly. This things is assuming the potential of a Reichstag fire. Lane fans it. You will find that those who have had dealing with him agree with what I say on the personal level. It is unfortunate, for he did pitch in at the beginning, and this was important. You will recall that part of my book that deals with his appearance and know I am without bias in this. If you could hear the unedited tape of the coming TV show and see and hear him try and prevent me from detailing the alteration of the pictures and the destruction of evidence by the staff you'd better understand this unpleasant truth. His book, while maintaining quotes, edits all the selections of testimony where the assistant counsel asked the questions. They are represented by "Q". Where Warren and Rankin (for whom I certainly hold no brief) ask the questions, their names appear. Lane quarelled with these two alone. The others are faceless. To the present reader and the future historian his book is designed to make Warren personally responsible for the errors of all, including the FBI, to disguise and eliminate the importance of the assistant counsel, who really did the work, and will not contribute to public understanding of either the crime or its whitewashing. He is now 100% commercial. He could make just as much money and do a lot more good by a greater display of integrity.

Typical is the demand that the archive be opened. It is. You can walk in and get anything that is cleared. If he wants to demonstrate, he should picket J. Edgar Hoover, who is really responsible for the serious classifications on the unclassified documents. That he will not do. That would cost him money in sales. I have heard parts of his film. It contains unnecessary and not unconscious error. Sylvia tells me on the radio last week he said the Report did not acknowledge the bullet that hit the far curbstone. How long can this go on? It is one of their three bullets. If you want to do a piece for the Barb, why not consult a bibliography and see whose documents arebstill classified and then demand of Lane that instead of picketing the archives, whose hands are legally tied and who are decent, helpful people (ask Salandria, for example) that he picket Hoover. Then you'll see who Lane really is and what motivates him. And you'll see who is keeping the stuff secret. He is engaged in just a gimick to attract attention to his book. He has really spent little time there and has not done well with that time, as you will, before too long, see. On this subject, what is needed is not stunts and slime. When he has begun to use what is available to him, he can complain. Until then, his motives are questionable. You will soon see what was available that he didn't use. Any time you went to do a story for the barb, you can use any of my book, with credit, I hope. Like the autopsy stuff, the pictures, etc., if you think they'll make a story. Hastily, pardon my bluntness and try and understand it. And many thanks for the good you have done. Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg